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News Release

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Pony Fire on the Klamath National Forest grows

YREKA, CA. – Lightning on Monday night ignited more wildfires on the Klamath National Forest. One of the fires, 15 miles southwest of Happy Camp near Pony Peak, has grown to approximately 150 acres.

The Pony Fire is in remote forest west of Highway 96 and east of the Siskiyou Wilderness, a half mile southeast of Pony Peak. A helitack crew responded to the scene Tuesday morning and assessed the fire, then withdrew when conditions became too dangerous. The Forest Service used retardant-dropping aircraft throughout Tuesday to reinforce an existing ridgetop containment line. As of Tuesday evening the fire grew to 150 acres. Due to the growth of the fire, steep terrain, and difficult conditions, the US Forest Service has ordered additional air and ground resources, including a Type 2 Incident Management Team, which will manage the fire from Happy Camp.

The Dillon Fire, also from a lightning strike, is near Dillon Creek and about three miles west of the Pony Fire. The fire is 0.1 acre and smokejumpers are on scene.

Four new fires were detected near Happy Camp on Tuesday. Two of the fires, Jackson and Peak, are north of Jackson Peak and both are 0.1 acre. A twenty-person crew is split between the two fires. The Horse Fire, on Frying Pan Ridge, is a single tree and firefighters are on scene. The China Fire, near China Peak, is approximately 2 acres and has a twenty-person

crew on scene. Three other fires from Sunday night lightning (Elk, Lower, and Little Grider) are contained.

One fire has appeared in the South Fork Salmon River area, also apparently started from the Monday night lightning. The Ault Fire is one-quarter acre, within the Trinity Alps Wilderness, about five miles southeast of Cecilville. Firefighters are on scene.

Lightning strikes were also detected Monday night on the Gooseneck Ranger District in and near Butte Valley National Grassland, although no fires have been detected.

All Klamath National Forest fires, except the Pony Fire, currently have firefighters on scene and have remained small.

Local weather forecasts call for cooler weather and a lack new lightning, which should help firefighters manage the recent fires.



Caption: The Pony Fire is actively consuming standing dead trees remaining from the 2001 Swillup Fire.



Caption: Photo of the Pony Fire, taken by firefighting aircraft on Tuesday.

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